

III - RESOURCE QUALITY CRITERIA

D. RESOURCE QUALITY CRITERIA FOR PLANTS

1. Plant Suitability

(a) Adaptability to site.

The desired plants or plant communities do not produce acceptable growth for the soil and climatic conditions.

Criteria for all land uses: Desired plants can be grown successfully in the climate and soils at the site or as modified to better suit plant needs.

(b) Suitability for the intended use.

The desired plants do not meet the intended use such as quantity and quality of crops, forage, timber production, erosion control and food or cover for desired animals.

Criteria for all land uses: Plant species are appropriate for the intended use within site condition restraints.

2. Condition of Plants

(a) Productivity

Desired plants do not provide the quantity and quality of crops, forage, and cover in the amounts and timeliness needed.

Criteria for Cropland: Crops are grown in a planned sequence that meets conservation and sustained production objectives.

Criteria for Pastureland and Hayland: Productivity of managed species will reflect levels appropriate to the site potential (generally 80 percent or more of total production).

Criteria for Annual Rangeland: Required amounts of residual dry matter remain at the beginning of the fall rainy season. (Appropriate levels will be assessed through Proper Grazing Use – Practice 528).

Criteria for Perennial Rangeland: Productivity of managed species will reflect levels appropriate to the site potential and management objective. (Appropriate levels will be assessed through Proper Grazing Use – Practice 528).

Criteria for Non-commercial Forest Land/Woodland: Productivity of managed tree understory species will reflect levels appropriate to the site potential.

Criteria for Commercial Forest Land/Woodland: Trees are well distributed, vigorous, relatively free of insects, disease, and other damage, and the density of the stand is within 25 percent of forest stand density guide spacing on a stems-per-acre basis for the particular forest types.

Criteria for Wildlife Land: Plant species provide sufficient quantity and quality of habitat to maintain, improve or protect the desired wildlife resource.

Criteria for all Other Land Uses: Vegetative cover is adequate to keep soil erosion within acceptable limits, minimize runoff, and maintain or improve infiltration.

(b) Health and vigor

Plants do not manufacture sufficient plant food to continue a vigorous growth cycle or to reproduce under the current management or cultural operations.

Criteria for all land uses: Species exhibit growth potentials appropriate to the site. Species reproduce adequately to maintain a productive stand.

3. Management Of Plants

(a) Establishment, growth, harvest.

The desired plants are adversely impacted by cultural operations or animals during establishment, growth, or harvest.

Criteria for all land uses: Management measures for desired plants have overcome constraining condition(s) or problem (see 2 (a) – Condition of Plants – Productivity) to allow for the establishment, growth and harvest.

(b) Nutrient management

The correct amount and balance of plant nutrients are not available to meet plant needs.

Criteria for all land uses: The correct amount and balance of plant nutrients are available or being applied to meet plant needs for the intended use. (Criteria will be met when productivity, health and vigor levels, as stated in 2 (a) and (b), above, are achieved). (See Practice 590).

(c) Pest management

Pest damage to plants is unacceptably high. Pests can include insects, animals, plants, diseases etc.

Criteria for Cropland: Pest control is applied to meet the plant needs and the landowners objectives.

Criteria for Pastureland and Hayland: Pest control is applied to meet the plant needs and the landowners objectives.

Criteria for Rangeland: Pest control is applied to meet the plant needs and the landowners objectives.

Criteria for Forest Land/Woodland: Damage to the stand is limited to less than 25 percent of the trees based on normal stocking for the species. (based on tables showing numbers and sizes of trees, total basal area, and volumes for stands at various ages)

Criteria for Wildlife Land: Pest control is applied to meet the plant needs and the landowners objectives.

(d) Other

Threatened and endangered plant species and present.

Criteria: Refer to California Endangered Species Handbook